

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A basket suitable for use in a vibratory screening apparatus, for use in removing solids from a liquid and solids mixture feed, said basket mounting a stack of at least three superposed screen assemblies, with superposed screen assemblies being separated from each other by a respective flow directing tray, said stack of at least three screen assemblies being provided with a flow distributor formed and arranged so as to be switchable between a plurality of different flow directing configurations, including:

a) a parallel processing configuration in which said flow distributor receives filtrate from a primary upper screen assembly and divides said filtrate into at least a first feed stream and a second feed stream and directs said feed streams onto respective remaining first and second ones of said stack of screen assemblies, and receives filtrate from a respective remaining screen assembly, from said respective flow directing tray(s); and

b) an intensive screening configuration in which the whole of the filtrate from a primary upper screen assembly is directed onto a first remaining screen assembly and the whole of the filtrate from said first remaining screen assembly is directed onto a second remaining screen assembly.

2. (Previously presented) A vibratory screening apparatus for use in removing solids from a liquid and solids mixture feed, said apparatus comprising a basket according to claim 1, and further comprising a static outer housing, said housing comprising: a base support formed and arranged for mounting at least one said basket in floating manner so as to be vibratable, in use of the apparatus, by a vibrator device formed and arranged for vibrating said basket, said base support having a sump for receiving filtrate from said basket, and said housing

having a feed device formed and arranged for directing said liquid and solids mixture feed to said basket mounted in said base support.

3-4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 1 wherein said plurality of flow directing configurations includes a restricted feed capacity configuration in which the whole of the feed is directed onto only one of said first and second remaining screen assemblies, and the filtrate therefrom exhausted directly from the apparatus without passing through the other one of said first and second remaining screen assemblies.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least said primary screen assembly has a different mesh size from at least one of said remaining screen assemblies.

8. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first and second remaining screen assemblies have the same mesh size.

9. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 1 wherein said flow distributor defines a plurality of flow pathways provided with flow control devices, for selective opening or at least partial closing of different passages.

10. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 9 wherein at least one said flow control device is selected from the group consisting essentially of: flap valves, sleeve valves, plug valves, and closure plates.

11. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 9 wherein at least one said flow control device comprises by a weir, formed and arranged for sub-dividing said feed into said first feed stream passing over said weir and a said second feed stream not passing over said weir.

12. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 11 wherein said weir comprises a variable height weir.

13. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 9 wherein said flow distributor includes at least one wall formed and arranged for defining a plurality of laterally adjacent flow pathways.

14. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 1 wherein the flow distributor is mounted on the basket.

15. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 1 wherein the flow distributor is coupled to the basket by flexible conduits.

16. (Previously presented) A vibratory screening apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said basket forms part of a multi-basket assembly comprising a plurality of said baskets, mounted in said static housing, and wherein said housing has a feed distribution device formed and arranged for directing said liquid and solids mixture feed to at least one of said plurality of baskets.

17. (Previously presented) A vibratory screening apparatus basket as claimed in claim 2, wherein said basket further includes a lateral divider defining independent feed processing modules, and wherein said housing has a feed distribution device formed and arranged for directing said liquid and solids mixture feed to at least one of said basket feed processing modules.

18. (Previously presented) A basket as claimed in claim 1 wherein said flow directing trays are formed and arranged so that substantially the whole of the filtrate from a screen assembly directly above said flow directing tray can be intercepted thereby, whereby said feed can be substantially fully divided into parallel first and second feed streams to respective ones of first and second remaining screen assemblies.